



Indiana Department of Education

SUPPORTING STUDENT SUCCESS

January 9, 2009

Indiana is pleased to host the 36th annual National Middle School Association (NMSA) Conference in Indianapolis on November 5 - 7, 2009. This is a rare and significant opportunity for middle grade educators (grades 4-9) in Indiana to obtain in-depth professional development specifically related to the academic and developmental needs of young adolescent learners.

This outstanding conference draws nearly 10,000 middle grade educators from all 50 states and more than 15 foreign countries. Historically, about 50 percent of the attendees are from the host state. The Indiana Department of Education, Indiana Middle Level Education Association, and other Indiana education stakeholders are working with NMSA to ensure that the conference topics will meet the needs of Indiana educators.

The 2009 NMSA conference will be held at the Indianapolis Convention Center and will feature 400 sessions in more than 40 topic areas ranging from achievement to urban issues. The NMSA conference will help meet the need of every educator who works with young adolescents ages 10-15. Keynote and featured speakers are currently being determined and the conference will have 14 topic strands woven throughout. These strands and their descriptions can be found at <http://www.nmsa.org/strands>.

We are pleased to announce that the conference will have a special globalization focus. Attendees will also be able to take advantage of the 21st Century Classroom – a one of a kind environment featuring the latest technologies in education conducted by students and teachers with connections to classrooms across the country and around the world.

The conference will include topics for middle level administrators such as Scheduling, Teaming, Safe School Environments, and Using Data to Improve Overall Student Performance. There will also be presentations related to curriculum alignment with 9–12 and the preparation of middle school students for high school and postsecondary success.

As you prepare your 2009-2010 school calendars, it would be great if you could consider including a staff development day, make up day, in-service, or work day on **Friday, November 6, 2009**. This would allow your middle grade teachers to attend without having to provide substitutes. Thank you for considering this high quality event as part of your staff development plan.

Sincerely,

Dr. Suellen Reed
Superintendent of Public Instruction